

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE
HELD ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2023 AT 7:30 PM
IN SHERBOURNE CHURCH**

Present	Cllr Tony Merrygold (Chairman)
:	
	Cllr John Murphy (BS&W JPC)
	Cllr Jan Matecki (WDC and WCC)
	Fourteen Sherbourne Electors

Opening

The chairman welcomed all attending to the meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 12 Apr 2022

The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Annual Report of Chairman of Joint Parish Council

As ever I'll try and keep my report short, covering off a few local village matters and then a few that are affecting the wider three parishes.

Village Hall

As you all know the lease on the Village Hall has come to an end, hence us holding this year's meeting in the Church, for which we are grateful. I must say that I think the idea of using for Church for local community events is a good idea as it encourages people to come and see this beautiful building.

A Planning Application has been submitted for 'Change of Use' of the Village Hall to offices.

National Highways Recovery Depot

I am sure you have all seen the trucks and portacabins that appeared on the Highways owned lane on the Stratford Road opposite Vicarage Lane. With impeccable timing from National Highways (Highways England) leaflets were dropped through some of our doors, **after** the construction work had been completed, which had they arrived before, would have saved a lot of heartache and time spent by you all, your councillors and the staff at Highways responding to everyone's concerns. In case you haven't seen their flyer, Highways are replacing the central barriers on the motorway where the M40 and M42 meet and short term are using the hard shoulder for live traffic. The purpose of this Recovery Depot is to scoop up any vehicles that break down in the roadworks, remove them from the motorway, and store them until they are collected by their owners. The site is 'temporary' with an expected completion date for the barriers works by Spring 2023. Once finished they are supposed to remove the hard standing they've put down and replace the topsoil they removed.

Comments on a couple of Planning Applications

Solar Farm Planning Applications

Applications were submitted for solar farms on two sites the other side of the A46. The JPC raised a number of issues on both applications, one of which was withdrawn and the other one went through the planning process and was refused by WDC on a fairly lengthy list of reasons.

The withdrawn application (from the company that held a public exhibition in the Village Hall – Namene) has been re-submitted. The JPC have objected to this, on the grounds that it is Green Belt and good quality agricultural land, which were the main reasons WDC rejected the other application, and while we can never predict the outcome of planning applications we are hopeful that the decision will go the same way as the other one and it will be refused.

Sherbourne Priors – Two Houses

You will all also be aware of the application to put two houses in the grounds of Sherbourne Priors. This was refused by WDC and the main grounds were:

The siting and design of the proposal are considered harmful to the character and appearance of the area, the Conservation Area and the setting of the Grade II listed building.

Now onto the wider things affecting the village.

Minerals Plan

The Locals Minerals Plan saga continues to rumble on and has reached the stage where despite the objections of the JPC and numerous local residents, the Wasperton site has been included in the approved WCC Minerals Plan.

Following this, the appointed contractor, Smiths Concrete Ltd have submitted a detailed Planning Application to operate the Sand and Gravel Quarry at the site. Unusually this Planning Application is being handled by WCC and not WDC so the consultation process is not as straightforward as normal. The JPC has submitted a lengthy objection to this on a number of grounds, which are not worth repeating in detail here.

There have also been over 1,500 other local responses to the consultation. Although the consultation period has officially finished, WCC will still accept some written submissions. The Sand and Gravel Action Group are commissioning a number of additional detailed reports which they hope will add more weight to their objections, and the JPC are in the process of commissioning a report on the predicted problems with generation of dust from the site – a decision on this should be made at a JPC meeting next week on Tuesday 11th April.

WDC have also adopted a very robust stance over the Applications. So while we can't predict the outcome, the fight is not over.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

Last year I talked briefly about the South Warwickshire Local Plan which is being prepared jointly by Warwick and Stratford District councils. This is to replace the current plans when they expire (2029 for Warwick and 2031 for Stratford) and take the councils on to 2050.

They put out an initial 'Call for Sites' so that any landowners or developers could put forward any sites that they may want to be considered for any change of use. All of this has now been collated on an interactive map covering the whole of South Warwickshire and you can drill into this map and see all the sites put forward within the boundaries of all three of our parishes and the surrounding areas.

This has now moved on to the Consultation Stage and the JPC have submitted very detailed responses covering our concerns for the effects on the three parishes. In Summary we are concerned about the continual creep of Warwick southwards, and Wellesbourne in all directions with the potential to create a large South Warwickshire Conurbation. Among our objections and comments we have cited the complete lack of any infra-structure planning and have suggested a 'red line' at the M40, south of which there should be no further development, together with a similar 'red line' to avoid any development to the west of the A429, heading north from Wellesbourne.

Wellesbourne Innovation Campus

On top of all this, and not included in the SWLP, Warwick University have issued an outline Master Plan for the Wellesbourne Campus (the old HRI site) with plans to turn it into an Innovation Hub with opportunities for commercial and industrial development for high-tech industries, all in a sympathetically sustainable design.

Sadly the Master Plan contains no detail whatsoever, about sizes of units, numbers of jobs generated, amount of traffic generated, and all images have the caveat added that they are representative only and any buildings may not end up looking anything like them.

One of the local concerns about the Quarry site is the amount of heavy traffic that will be generated and the extra traffic from the Wellesbourne Campus is likely to completely dwarf this.

This site is in the Stratford District and the JPC is not routinely consulted on SDC Planning Applications, but we have submitted a response to their Consultation, expressing our concerns and insisting that we are included as one of the Statutory Consultees as the plans progress.

Summary

At the risk of leaving you all with a very gloomy view of the future of our lovely rural area and lifestyle you can at least be safe in the knowledge that we will keep a close eye on all of these and continue to influence them as much as we can.

Finally, I would like to thank all our councillors and parish clerk who have served their electors well throughout the year.

Tony Merrygold

Chairman – Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council

Report from local police.

Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) is a group of local police officers dedicated to serving your community. The team is made up of Police Officers, PCSOs, Special Constables and volunteers based in your area, supported by additional officers from the wider area. The team are accessible and have the skills and experience to identify and address local issues to ensure that communities are safe places to live, work and visit.

Key to the success of the Safer Neighbourhood initiative is the involvement of our local partners. Together with Safer Neighbourhood teams, they are committed to addressing local and force-wide concerns that impact upon quality of life. The Safer Neighbourhood teams work with many partners from the wider community, many of them volunteers like our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, who are willing to give up their time to help make their communities safer.

The Warwick Rural West team covers the Bishop's Tachbrook, Budbrooke, Lapworth and Leek Wootton electoral wards in Warwick District. These four wards cover the parishes of Baddesley Clinton, Barford, Beausale, Bishop's Tachbrook, Budbrooke, Bushwood, Haseley, Hatton, Honiley, Lapworth, Leek Wootton & Guys Cliffe, Rowington, Sherbourne, Shrewley, Wasperton and Wroxall. If you would like to contact the team then you can call us on 01926 684397 or you can email us on wrrw.snt@warwickshire.police.uk. However if you need to report a crime then please call 101 or report this on the police website on www.warwickshire.police.uk. In an emergency, call 999.

We are also encouraging the use of our Warwickshire Connected service. This is a free messaging service brought to you by Warwickshire Police where you decide when and how you hear about the issues that matter most to you, whether that be getting regular crime updates, the latest information on ongoing incidents and emergencies or learning more about what your local police are doing. This is also the place where you can get involved in helping to make your local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in your area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and tell us what matters are causing your communities harm.

To sign up, go to <https://www.warwickshireconnected.com/>

Report on Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch - April 2023

The Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch Scheme started seven years ago and all people who move into the village are invited to join. Until recently, the number of those participating has remained fairly static, with those moving away being replaced by people new to the village. However, in the last 18 months, only one of the new residents has joined the scheme and three have not.

When the new Warwickshire Connected scheme started, we were overwhelmed with emails from different organisations, but these have now reduced considerably.

Last year we were able to alert members to someone calling at houses and trying to sell items, which we also reported as a scam activity.

We have just reintroduced a 'Welcome to Sherbourne' letter, which is delivered to all new residents. It includes details of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, the Sherbourne Residents' Association and information about local facilities, as well as a map of the village conservation area and details of the Article 4 requirements.

If anyone has not yet joined up and would like to do so, please contact:

Helen Whiter 01926 624681 helenwhiter@btinternet.com

Helen Whiter, Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Warwick District Councillors' Annual Report - April 2023

Warwick District Council, (WDC), froze the District Council element of Council Tax for the second year running. The opposition, as they did last year, wanted to increase it by the maximum amount allowable, despite the Council generating around £1.5m per year through a joint venture by the local housing company that the Councils owns. £52,000 was allocated to food banks, which is £1,000 per week, as well as other measures to help the most vulnerable in our society.

A new Development Policy Document, (DPD), has been submitted to Government for approval. The DPD will force any new developments in the district to be built to a much higher environmentally friendly building standard, which will reduce carbon emissions and also provide more energy efficient homes. The Inspector has had a public review of the DPD, and we hope it will become part of the Local Plan by the autumn of 2023.

WDC will be moving out of Riverside House in Leamington. The backroom function will be moving to offices in Saltisford, Warwick, with a front office facility being introduced in the Pump Rooms in Leamington Spa. It is planned to have 'floor walkers' in the Pump Rooms to meet residents and help

them with their enquiries. There will be private meeting rooms available and a member of the housing team will also always be on site to deal with any urgent housing needs. The move is planned to take place around June 2023. A purchaser of Riverside House has been found, who will develop the site to include 40% affordable homes and retaining the protected trees.

The District hosted the bowls and men's and women's road cycle races. These were a great success bringing a lot of tourism and business into the district, as well as showcasing Warwick and Leamington to the rest of the world. Bowls England are hoping to host more international events at the newly laid international standard greens in Victoria Park, and there has been an upsurge in interest from filming companies wanting to film around the area. This will bring more revenue into the local economy and into the Council.

An Additional Licensing proposal has gone out to consultation to look at making all houses of multi-occupation, (HMOs), licensable. Currently, only homes that have 5 or more occupants from 2 or more households need to be inspected and have a license. The proposal is that all HMOs, defined as 3 or more people from 2 or more households sharing a property, in the district should be licensed. The extra revenue from the licensing fee will self-fund the extra staff required for inspections and enforcement. The scheme will also penalise those landlords that do not fulfil their duties in managing HMOs in an appropriate manner. It is hoped the scheme will be approved by October 2023.

Two brand new leisure facilities in Kenilworth have started to be constructed. The sports centre at Castle Farm and the swimming pool complex at Abbey Fields have been demolished and work started on the new buildings. The new swimming pools at Abbey Fields will have a pool with a moveable floor so that younger children and those with disabilities will be able to use the pool with depths to suit their needs. It will be a first in the district for a pool with such facilities.

Finally, a grant of £250,000 has been secured from WDC for the new proposed Youth and Community centre in Barford. The grant is subject to conditions being met, which have been put in place to ensure that the project is a viable proposition. This grant being made available should help in secured other grants that were dependant on WDC funding and will hopefully now see the project more forward at an accelerated pace.

Cllrs Jan Matecki & Alan Rhead

Warwickshire County Councillor's Annual Report - April 2023

The year has been dominated by the cost-of-living crisis. As well as providing advice to families, Warwickshire County Council has supported residents with financial support through various grants and schemes. £3.47m of grants was made available through the Household Support Fund, and a further £180,000 was made available to voluntary and community groups to establish projects that helped address the cost-of-living crisis.

The new all through school in Bishop's Tachbrook, Oakley School, was granted planning permission and work started on the school in December 2022. It is on target to open in September 2024, with the first year 7 intake scheduled to start in September 2023 spending their first year in Myton School's new 6th form centre, which is also currently being built and on target to be ready for the pupils to start in September 2023. There was no catchment area set for pupils wanting to start at Oakley school in September 2023. September 2024 will see the arrival of the September 2024 year 7 intake, as well as the year 8 pupils move from Myton 6th form centre. There will also be an intake of reception year children in 2024.

On the theme of education, a Task and Finish group has been set up to look into the inequalities of education throughout the county. The group are investigating why certain schools have children that underperform, while others in predominantly deprived areas perform well. I am part of the group and a report is expected to be issued later in the year.

A new on 'on demand' bus service, IndieGo Plus, was introduced to replace the old No.16 bus service. Residents in an area from M40 to the south, A452 to the north, A46 to the east and A4177/Five Ways Road to the west can use an App or telephone to book a bus journey at times they need. Journeys can be booked within the area, or to Kenilworth and Warwick. Residents in Warwick can also book journeys into that area. It has been dubbed by many residents as the 'Uber' bus service and has received a very positive response. It is hoped that the service will be expanded to other rural communities if it continues to be successful.

The annual public health report has been issued. It highlights how the cost of living is starting to affect the health and wellbeing of residents, and that there is a risk of exacerbating further the health

inequalities that already exist within the county. The newly formed Integrated Care System has been given recommendations on how to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, and involves focus on food, housing and transport. The full report is available online.

The Warwickshire Minerals Plan was adopted, which included the Wasperton site for the extraction of sand and gravel. A planning application has been submitted for the site, but it is not expected to be presented to committee for consideration before autumn 2023. I continue to object to a quarry being at this site, and I am working with the local sand and gravel committee in their fight to have the application refused.

The WCC Council Tax increase for 2023-24 was set at 3.94%, which includes 1% for the Adult Social Care levy. The budget included investments of:

- £24.8m to protect elderly and vulnerable adults
- £8.2m for home to school transport
- £5.4m for children's social care services
- £1.8m to support children and young adults with disability placements
- £1.2m in the Waste Management service to meet increased demand
- £0.8m in Fire & Rescue Service to review current strategies and processes.

More locally, the JPC area of Barford, Wasperton and Sherbourne Parish Councils, has seen some improvements on the roads. White lines have been painted on parts of Barford roads to stop parking, new fencing installed along the A429, and the layby just south of the Wasperton turn has also had new surfaces laid at the entrances. Funding has also been secured for 20mph limits to be installed in Barford along Bridge Street and Church Street/High Street, but I will push to have this extended to include Wellesbourne Road if at all possible.

Cllr Jan Matecki

AOB

One resident comment on the fact that the meeting was being held in the church and was keen to see the church put to other uses within the community. This prompted a number of suggestions, but it was deemed that all of this is within the purview of the PCC and not the Parish Meeting or the JPC.

One resident raised a number of issues:

- 1 Concerns about traffic using village roads when there are traffic problems on the A46. Nothing the Parish can do as the roads are 'public highway'.
- 2 Mention of the National Highways recovery depot on the Stratford Road (in the Chairman's report) prompted a comment re 'Smart Motorways'. Not a Parish issue.
- 3 The final point was about the long-term request for a pedestrian crossing on the A429 adjacent to Sherbourne, which Cllr Matecki responded by saying that WCC have looked into this and already responded that it does not fit with WCC policy. The questioner, not accepting this answer, there then followed a lively exchange of views. Cllr Matecki added that he hoped that as the IndieGo Plus bus service rolls out, it may be of benefit to this resident.

Appointments

Tony Merrygold was appointed chairman of the parish meeting for 2023-24.

Closure

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.